

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 TRSE-00 /078 W

-----032707 021436Z /44

P 021325Z DEC 77

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9804

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 202

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, EG, IS, XF

SUBJECT: ANWAR KHATIB'S VIEWS

SUMMARY: HUSSEIN'S UNOFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN EAST JERUSALEM/WEST BANK BELIEVES 80 PERCENT OF WEST BANKERS/ GAZANS SUPPORT SADAT. HE BELIEVES THIS SUPPORT ALSO EXTENDS TO EAST BANK PALESTINIANS. HE SAYS GAZAN MAYOR RASCHED SHAWA GOING TO BEIRUT ON DECEMBER 2 TO WARN ARAFAT THAT IF PLO ATTEMPTS TO BLOCK REASONABLE SETTLEMENT, WEST BANKERS/GAZANS WILL TURN AGAINST ORGANIZATION. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ONE-HOUR TALK WITH ANWAR KHATIB DECEMBER 1, HE ASSERTED AT LEAST 80 PERCENT OF WEST BANK/GAZA PALESTINIANS SUPPORT SADAT. COMMUNISTS, BAATHISTS, AND PLO ACTIVISTS ARE OPPOSED BUT ARE BUCKING MAJORITY OPINION.

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KHATIB HAS IMPRESSION APPROVAL OF SADAT ALSO WIDE SPREAD ON EAST BANK FROM RECENT STREAM OF VISITORS HE HAD DURING EID AL ADHA FEAST. KHATIB ASKED ONE SUCH REFUGEE FROM JAFFA WHY HE ADOPTED POSITIVE ATTITUDE SINCE, EVEN IF SADAT SUCCESSFUL, THERE WAS NO HOPE OF RETURNING TO HIS HOME. REFUGEE REPLIED THAT IF HE DIED IN JERICHO, IT WOULD STILL BE IN PALESTINE AND CLOSER TO HIS FORMER HOME THAN A

CAMP IN JORDAN.

2. KHATIB SAID GAZA MAYOR RASCHED SHAWA WOULD LEAVE FOR AMMAN AND BEIRUT DECEMBER 2 ON MISSION TO ARAFAT. SHAWA WOULD EMPHASIZE FIRST PRIORITY WAS TO END OCCUPATION AND IF PLO ATTEMPTED TO BLOCK REASONABLE SETTLEMENT REACHED AT CAIRO, WEST BANK/GAZA PALESTINIANS WOULD TURN AGAINST PLO. KHATIB BELIEVES ARAFAT IS PERSONALLY INCLINED IN SADAT'S DIRECTION AND THAT THERE MAY BE FURTHER SPLITS IN PLO SOON.

3. KHATIB THINKS SADAT'S VISIT TO ISRAEL AND HIS INVITATIONS TO CAIRO MEETING HAVE STRENGTHENED ISRAELI MODERATES, BUT HE DOUBTS THEY HAVE SUFFICIENT CLOUT TO ALTER BEGIN'S STANCE ON THE TERRITORIES.

4. SADAT'S DECISION TO COME TO JERUSALEM WAS PROMPTED BY HIS BELIEF US STALLED AS RESULT DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO ADMINISTRATION'S ME POLICY. WHEN I DENIED THAT US EFFORTS TO CONVENE GENEVA HAD BEEN STALLED, KHATIB SAID NO ONE DOUBTED SINCERITY OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S DESIRE FOR OVERALL SETTLEMENT.

5. KHATIBI CONFIRMED THAT ON EVE OF SADAT'S ARRIVAL, MANY WEST BANKERS HAD RECEIVED THREATENING TELEPHONE CALLS FROM PLO MEMBERS IN US AND EUROPE. AS RESULT, SHAWA HAD NOT MET WITH SADAT ALONG WITH OTHER WEST BANK/GAZAN PERSONALITIES. CONFIDENTIAL

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PLO HAD ALSO THREATENED SHEIKH AL MUHTASEB OF THE HIGHER ISLAMIC COUNCIL. WHEN AL MUHTASEB ASKED KHATIB WHAT TO DO, KHATIB SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION BUT THAT HE MUST RECIEVE SADAT AT AL AKSA MOSQUE AND HE WENT TO PICK UP THE SHEIKH IN HIS OWN CAR.

6. COMMENT: KHATIB WAS IN THE MOST POSITIVE AND BALANCED FRAME OF MIND THAT I'VE EVER SEEN HIM. MUTED WERE HIS USUALLY HARSH CRITICISMS OF ISRAEL AND THE US. HE HAD JUST HEARD SADAT'S STATEMENT FROM CAIRO THAT PALESTINIANS HE MET WITH IN JERUSALEM WERE THE REAL REPRESENTATIVES AND THIS HAD OBVIOUSLY PLEASED HIM. UNCHARACTERISTICALLY, KHATIB DID NOT REPEAT HUSSEIN'S CRITICISM OF SADAT'S MISSION. NEWLIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Subject: ANWAR KHATIB'S VIEWS SUMMARY: HUSSEIN'S UNOFFICAL REPRESENTATIVE IN EAST JERUSALEM/WEST BANK BELIEVES 80 PERCENT OF WEST BA
TAGS: PGOV, EG, IS, XF, (KHATIB, ANWAR)
To: STATE
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